



Disability Action Plan 2019–2023

Putting the New Zealand
Disability Strategy into action

November 2019

He waka eke noa
We are all in this together



The DPO Coalition and officials worked together to agree on the Action Plan.

Summary

The Disability Action Plan 2019–2023 (Action Plan) aims to deliver the eight outcomes in the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016–2026 (Disability Strategy).

It is not a conventional Action Plan in that it does not consist of a series of work areas followed by lists of actions. Instead, it is a package of 25 cross-government work programmes that are underway or are being planned that have an explicit disability perspective. The Action Plan is on pages 8 to 9 of this document.

The Action Plan has been designed this way to bring together important programmes of work that agencies have committed to that relate to the outcomes in the Disability Strategy.

The Action Plan responds to the main issues identified by disabled people, the Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) Coalition and government agencies working together. We expect most of the work programmes in the Action Plan to continue beyond 2023. New work programmes may be added to the Action Plan over its timeframe.

Most of the work programmes will be implemented within agency baselines, but some may require new resources. Where this is the case, agencies may develop budget bids to secure additional or new funding.

Like all good action plans, it is important to monitor and measure progress over time. The Action Plan includes several monitoring mechanisms to ensure agencies are held to account, including (but not limited to):

- submission of six-monthly status reports to the Office for Disability Issues
- bi-annual meetings of the Ministerial Leadership Group on Disability Issues
- DPO Coalition meetings with agencies, as required.

Putting the Disability Strategy into action

Introduction

The Disability Action Plan 2019–2023 (Action Plan) is the government’s vehicle for implementing the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016–2026 (Disability Strategy).

The Disability Strategy is the government’s vehicle for meeting our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

The Action Plan is a package of comprehensive government work programmes that will progress the eight outcomes in the Disability Strategy:

education, employment and economic security, health and wellbeing, rights protection and justice, accessibility, attitudes, choice and control, and leadership.

This Action Plan is the fourth Disability Action Plan since 2011. It was agreed to by Cabinet in September 2019.



The voice of disabled youth will continue to inform the work programmes in the Action Plan.

Selecting the work programmes

The work programmes in the Action Plan are consistent with the twin-track approach of the Disability Strategy, focusing on disability specific and mainstream approaches. The work programmes are either directly related to improving government funding and services for disabled people or bring a significant disability focus to broader policy or work programmes.

Consistent with Article 4.3 of the UNCRPD, disabled peoples' voices have shaped the Action Plan through a public consultation process. The feedback from consultation then informed many important conversations between the DPO Coalition and government agencies.

The chosen work programmes are derived from:

- incomplete actions from the previous Disability Action Plan 2014–2018
- important issues identified by the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) at the outset of New Zealand's second periodic review of its implementation of the UNCRPD
- work programmes that government agencies identified as progressing the Disability Strategy, and
- a response to issues and ideas highlighted during public consultation or during regional meetings between stakeholders and the Minister for Disability Issues.

As a result, 25 work programmes have been included in the Action Plan, which will be delivered by 14 government agencies and their partners.

Many of the programmes are substantial and long term and are expected to continue beyond the life of this current Action Plan.

The work programmes, as they are developed and implemented, will be responsive to the needs and potential of all disabled people, including: Māori; Pacific peoples; women and girls; disabled people with complex needs; and whānau.

New programmes of work may be included over the next four years as new priorities and opportunities are identified.

In addition to the 25 work programmes, government agencies have been asked to commit to two cross-cutting issues: collecting better data about disabled people, and greater involvement of disabled people in policy and service development.

This builds on the commitments of government agencies in the previous Action Plan to making public information accessible and improving employment opportunities for disabled people in the public service.

Most work programmes in the Action Plan will be resourced from agencies' existing funding. A few may be dependent on new or additional funding.



Disabled people sharing their views at a Disability Action Plan workshop.

Involving disabled people

When planning for and implementing their work programmes, each government agency is expected to engage effectively with disabled people. Such engagement is consistent with Article 4.3 (“closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities”) of the UNCRPD to which New Zealand is a signatory.

Ensuring data is disaggregated by disability

Statistics New Zealand and the Office for Disability Issues are joint leads for the Disability Data and Evidence Working Group’s work programme.

All agencies are expected to promote the use of the Washington Group sets of questions on disability in government surveys.

Monitoring and reporting progress

It is important to report on and monitor the Action Plan’s progress. The Action Plan includes several mechanisms to monitor implementation, including:

- six-monthly status reports to the Office for Disability Issues
- bi-annual meetings of the Ministerial Leadership Group on Disability Issues
- bi-annual meetings of the DPO Coalition with the Minister for Disability Issues
- DPO Coalition meetings with agencies on request
- Minister for Disability Issues’ annual report to Parliament
- meetings with Chief Executives, officials and Ministers, as required.

Governance

The Ministerial Leadership Group on Disability Issues is the primary governance lever, together with ongoing engagement with agency chief executives and senior officials.

Advice

The DPO Coalition will continue to play a key role, providing feedback on progress and advice on implementing the work programmes to improve the wellbeing of disabled people.

United Nations Convention on the Rights

New Zealand Disability

Disability Action

Accountability mechanisms

Governance

- Ministerial Leadership Group on Disability Issues (MLGDI)
- Ongoing engagement with CEs and senior officials

Advice

- Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition

Cross-cutting issues

1. Disability data

- Disability Data and Evidence Working Group
- Washington Group sets of questions on disability

Outcomes and work programmes



Education

Ministry of Education's Education Work Programme, including but not limited to:

- Early Learning Strategic Plan
- Tomorrow's Schools Review
- NCEA Review
- Review of Vocational Education
- Curriculum, Progress and Achievement
- Learning Support Action Plan

Tertiary Education Commission:

- Improve outcomes for disabled learners



Leadership

Office for Disability Issues:

- Nominations Database

New Zealand Transport Agency:

- Improve understanding and decision-making

Other work programmes will impact on the leadership outcome



Employment

Ministry of Social Development:

- Disability Employment Action Plan
- Employment of disabled people in public sector
- National Information Hub and Regional Networks

Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment:

- Replacement of Minimum Wage Exemption



Choice and control

Ministry of Health:

- Transformation of the Disability Support System

Ministry of Social Development:

- Supported Decision-Making

of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD)

Strategy 2016–2026

Plan 2019–2023

Reporting

- Six-monthly status reports
- DPO twice-yearly meeting with Minister
- Annual Report

Monitoring

- Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM)

2. Disabled people's involvement in decision-making

- Effective engagement with disabled people across agencies



Health and wellbeing

Ministry of Health:

- Repeal and replace the Mental Health (CAT) Act 1992
- Improve access to quality healthcare and health outcomes
- Explore the framework that protects bodily integrity
- Funded Family Care

Ministry of Health and Department of Corrections:

- Reduce the use of seclusion and restraint

Sport New Zealand:

- Play, Active Recreation and Sport Action Plan

Office for Seniors:

- Better Later Life – He Oranga Kaumātua 2019–2034



Rights

Ministry of Justice with other justice sector agencies:

- Improve justice services so that they are accessible and able to be understood by disabled people



Accessibility

Ministry of Social Development:

- Accelerate Accessibility (including the role of accessibility legislation)
- Accessibility of Public Information

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Housing New Zealand:

- Improve accessibility across the New Zealand housing system

New Zealand Transport Agency:

- NZTA Action Plan

Ministry of Transport:

- Ministry of Transport Action Plan

Office for Seniors:

- Age-friendly Aotearoa/New Zealand



Attitudes

New Zealand Transport Agency:

- Disability awareness education for bus drivers

Other work programmes will impact on the attitude outcome

This document was published by the Office for Disability Issues, on behalf of the Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition and government agencies involved in the Disability Action Plan 2019–2023.

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